

CALLOPANCHAX MYERS 1933 (PISCES): REQUEST FOR A RULING
AS TO THE TYPE-SPECIES. Z.N.(S.) 1910

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission for a ruling on the question of the species to be accepted as the type-species of the genus-group taxon *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933. This case involves a misidentified type-species, and the possible objective synonymization of *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933, with *Fundulopanchax* Myers, 1924.

2. Myers (1924 : 2) proposed the new genus *Aphyosemion* Myers, 1924, with *A. castaneum* Myers, 1924, sp. nov., as its designated type-species. There is no question in regard to this name.

3. In the same paper (Myers, 1924 : 4) I proposed, as a sub-genus of *Aphyosemion*, the new subgeneric name *Fundulopanchax* Myers, 1924, with *Fundulus gularis* var. *caerulea* Boulenger (1915 : 30) as its designated type, at the same time raising var. *caerulea* to species rank, in the combination *Aphyosemion* (*Fundulopanchax*) *caeruleum* (Boulenger). This species was clearly figured by me in Fig. 3. Due to subsequent name changes, it will be most convenient hereinafter to refer to *A. caeruleum* under its vernacular name, "blue gularis", under which it has invariably been known to aquarists from about the year 1910 to the present day. No doubt attaches to the zoological entity known as the "blue gularis" or *Aphyosemion caeruleum*, although *caeruleum* has now disappeared as a subjective junior synonym of another name (see below).

4. Myers (1933 : 184), in a revision of the generic limits of the African genera related to *Aphyosemion*, divided that genus into three subgenera: *Aphyosemion*, *sensu stricto*; *Fundulopanchax* Myers, 1924; and *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933, subgen. nov., giving, as generic type of *Callopanchax*, the species *Fundulus sjoestedti* Lönnberg, 1895. Only the type-species was referred by me (Myers, 1933) to the monospecific subgenus *Callopanchax*. In this 1933 paper, the taxonomy of the species was not revised, but all nominal species and subspecies names then accepted were listed under their proper genera and subgenera. I had not then seen all the species, but to the name of each species of which I had seen the type specimens I appended a footnote reference, stating: "Types examined". No such footnote was appended to my listing of *Aphyosemion sjoestedti* (Lönnberg), the type-species of *Callopanchax*, because I had not seen Lönnberg's type of that taxon, which is preserved in Stockholm. As in the case of the "blue gularis" mentioned above as the type-species of *Fundulopanchax* Myers, 1924, it will aid in clarity to use the vernacular name for the species which I called *Aphyosemion sjoestedti* in 1933 and which I gave as the type-species of *Callopanchax*; since about 1910, and up until the present, aquarists have uniformly used the name "golden pheasant" for that species.

5. In evaluating my usage of species names in 1933, it will be helpful to point out that, until very recently, the species classification (as distinguished from the generic classification) of the African Cyprinodontidae now under

discussion was that presented by Boulenger (1915; and the addenda in Boulenger 1916). Although many new species had been added to those treated in Boulenger's major work, no important attempts at a revision of the generic and subgeneric limits which I proposed in 1933, and no major revisions of Boulenger's species treatment, were made until the decade of the 1960's. My 1933 listings of the older species names published prior to Boulenger (1915; 1916) followed Boulenger's treatment in detail, except for the raising of his var. *caerulea* to species rank as *Aphyosemion caeruleum*.

6. It must especially be noted that my 1933 concept of what Boulenger (1915 : 38-39) called *Fundulus sjoestedti* (Lönnberg), which is the species that I cited in 1933 as the type of *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933, followed Boulenger precisely. The subgenus *Callopanchax* was based primarily on a high count of dorsal and anal fin rays, and the count-limits that I gave for *Callopanchax* were derived from Boulenger's description of "*Fundulus sjoestedti*" (Boulenger, 1915 : 38). Moreover, the geographical range that I gave for *Callopanchax* was copied directly from Boulenger (1915 : 38-39) and from his addenda (Boulenger, 1916 : 325). Aside from Boulenger's accounts just cited, I had only a single preserved specimen of the species I chose as type of *Callopanchax*; it was almost certainly the only museum specimen of that fish in North America in 1933. It is in the U.S. National Museum (Register no. 94316). It was an aquarium specimen (male) of the "golden pheasant", without locality data, and it agreed well with Boulenger's 1915 figure of the male and his description of "*Fundulus sjoestedti*". From these data it will be abundantly clear that the type-species I chose for *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933, was the "golden pheasant", which was described and figured by Boulenger as *Fundulus sjoestedti* (Lönnberg). Moreover, the matter is verifiable by examination of my specimen (USNM 94316).

7. Stenholt Clausen (1966; 1967) has recently examined the type specimen of *Fundulus sjoestedti* Lönnberg, 1895, in Stockholm, and finds that it is not an example of the "golden pheasant", as Boulenger (1915 : 1916) and all subsequent writers had presumed. Instead, the type specimen of *F. sjoestedti* is an example of the "blue gularis". Thus the species that was previously and invariably called *Aphyosemion caeruleum* (Boulenger, 1915) falls as a junior subjective synonym of *Aphyosemion sjoestedti* (Lönnberg, 1895), the latter combination being thus transferred from the "golden pheasant" to the "blue gularis". There being no available synonyms, the "golden pheasant" was thus left without a species name, and Stenholt Clausen (1966 : 331) proposed *Aphyosemion occidentale* S. Clausen, 1966, sp. nov., for it.

8. However, towards the end of the same paper, Stenholt Clausen (1966 : 338), proposed *Roloffia* S. Clausen, gen. nov., with *Aphyosemion occidentale* S. Clausen of the same paper (p. 331) as type-species, and uses the new combination *Roloffia occidentalis* for the "golden pheasant". For explanation of this act, Stenholt Clausen refers to a then unpublished paper (Stenholt Clausen, 1967). It is of zoological but not nomenclatural importance that I do not consider the taxon called *Roloffia* or *Callopanchax* to be worthy of generic rank.

9. In the last-mentioned paper (1967 : 22) Stenholt Clausen admitted that the "golden pheasant" had uniformly been known as *Aphyosemion sjoestedti*

previous to his publication of 1966. He also admitted that the "golden pheasant" was almost surely the species I had in mind when I made *Fundulus sjoestedti* the type-species of *Callopanchax* in 1933. However, Stenholt Clausen raised doubts as to what species I had intended as type of *Callopanchax* by pointing out that almost the only character I used for defining *Callopanchax* (dorsal and anal fin-ray counts) is not wholly diagnostic, and that the geographical range I gave was not that nowadays known for the "golden pheasant", the only species that I referred to *Callopanchax* in 1933. Stenholt Clausen ignored (or did not verify) the fact that both the fin-ray counts and the geographical range I gave for *Callopanchax* were copied in toto from Boulenger's account of "*Fundulus sjoestedti*" (Boulenger, 1915 : 38-39; 1916 : 325). It is therefore completely verifiable from the literature alone (quite apart from any examination of my specimen in Washington) that the definition and range of *Callopanchax* given by me in 1933 for that monospecific subgenus were drawn entirely and verbatim from Boulenger's 1915 and 1916 accounts of "*Fundulus sjoestedti*" (that is, the "golden pheasant").

10. Stenholt Clausen (1967 : 22) also makes the claim that if I had really intended the "golden pheasant" to be the type of *Callopanchax* in 1933, his discovery (of 1966-1967) that the "golden pheasant" had become nameless (because he had transferred the name *sjoestedti* to the "blue gularis") the generic-group name *Callopanchax* was invalidated because it no longer had a named type-species. I can find no provision of the Code to support the claim that a generic-group name is invalidated when its type-species is found to be misidentified and is temporarily nameless. Moreover, the type-species of *Callopanchax* was never left nameless, because Stenholt Clausen (1966), in the same paper in which he shifted the name *sjoestedti* to the "blue gularis" provided its type-species (the "golden pheasant") with the new name *occidentale*. At best (or worst) the account of the "golden pheasant" given by Boulenger (1915 : 38-39; 1916 : 325) was a composite based upon the "golden pheasant" (which is the species figured) and possibly a few specimens of related populations.

11. Stenholt Clausen (1967 : 22) stated: "It is, in fact, almost certain that Myers [1933] had the undescribed form [the "golden pheasant"] in mind [as the type species of *Callopanchax*], as its identity with *Fundulus sjoestedti* Lönnberg has never been questioned prior to 1966". Nevertheless, Stenholt Clausen proceeded as if the type-species of *Callopanchax* had not been misidentified, which resulted in *Fundulopanchax* Myers, 1924 (type *caeruleum* Boulenger, 1915 = *sjoestedti* Lönnberg, 1895) and *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933 (type *sjoestedti* Lönnberg, 1895 = *caeruleum* Boulenger, 1915) being considered by Stenholt Clausen to have been based on the same species. I must dissent from the implied conclusion that I based two new generic names on the same species! I have already demonstrated that I did not do so, and also that the facts are verifiable from the literature alone, to say nothing of the evidence provided by the only specimen of the "golden pheasant" available to me in 1933. The subgenus *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933, was clearly based upon a misidentified type-species, *Fundulus sjoestedti* Boulenger, 1915 (nec *Fundulus sjoestedti* Lönnberg, 1895), which equals *Aphyosemion occidentale* Stenholt Clausen, 1966.

12. In order to clear up the case, the Commission is requested:
- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933, hitherto made and to designate *Aphyosemion occidentale* Stenholt Clausen, 1966, as type-species of that genus;
 - (2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933 (gender: masculine), type-species by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Aphyosemion occidentale* Stenholt Clausen, 1966;
 - (b) *Fundulopanchax* Myers, 1924 (gender: masculine), type-species by original designation *Fundulus gularis* var. *caerulea* Boulenger, 1915.
 - (3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *occidentale* Stenholt Clausen, 1966, as published in the binomen *Aphyosemion occidentale* (type-species of *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933);
 - (b) *caerulea* Boulenger, 1915, as published in the combination *Fundulus gularis* var. *caerulea* (type-species of *Fundulopanchax* Myers, 1924);
 - (4) to place the generic name *Roloffia* Stenholt Clausen, 1966, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (a junior objective synonym of *Callopanchax* Myers, 1933).

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